

**AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows.

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 6-25 with the paragraph below:

-----According to the invention, the object is achieved by a bandage segment having an adhesive backing layer which has a specially defined unidirectional elasticity and which is covered by a releasable protective layer. A bandage segment such as this is a medical product which is to be applied to the skin and which has the appearance of traditional plasters. In contrast to these, it is not affixed to open wounds. The fact that the bandage segment is not wound round the joint like conventional bandages means it is not possible for constriction to occur. At the same time, the elastic behavior of the bandage segment means that the joint is permanently supported, including during movements. A particular advantage of the bandage segments is that they can also easily be applied by persons who are not medically trained, and they do not cause a foreign-body sensation, even when worn over a fairly long period of time, for example when participating in sport. -----